



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

City of Danville

Colonel Philip A. Broadfoot
Chief of Police

Major Edward V. Burke
Operations Division

Lt. Colonel Ronald D. Hairston
Deputy Chief

Major Christopher K. Wiles
Services Division

INVESTIGATION UPDATE – July 14, 2017 **Colonel Philip A. Broadfoot**

Danville Police responded to a report of a traffic crash on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 11:47 PM at the intersection of Arnett Boulevard and Glendale Avenue. When officers arrived, a vehicle wedged against the curb was found to contain the bodies of a young woman — Breia Martonia Edmunds, 21 — and a young man — Damarcus Daron Whitehead, 20. Both had been shot.

Within the first thirty minutes of the investigation, several concerned citizens at the crime scene voluntarily provided information that a certain male would be a person of interest in the murders. This information proved to be critical, as it was both accurate and timely. A team of officers worked practically non-stop for five days to collect evidence, follow leads and conduct interviews to eliminate other possibilities and confirm that the person of interest was indeed the suspect.

The suspect was already wanted on two outstanding warrants for shoplifting and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, so the decision was made to locate and arrest him on those charges. Five days later on the night of Tuesday, June 6th, information was developed that he was likely to be in one of two locations in the city of Danville. SWAT teams were assembled and sent to both locations and he was located in an apartment on Memorial Drive and arrested. Dana Miguel Keith, 29, was placed in jail under no bond with a court appearance scheduled for 11:00 AM on July 19th in Danville General District Court.

Arresting him on the two outstanding warrants allowed us to remove him from the community and place him in jail while we continued to investigate the case. I am pleased to now announce that two warrants were served this morning on Dana Keith charging him with the First Degree Murders of Ms. Edmunds and Mr. Whitehead. He is scheduled to be arraigned on these charges on Monday, July 17 in Danville General District Court.

The investigation is continuing and more charges may be forthcoming. People are still being interviewed and information is still being compiled. For that reason, I cannot talk about the suspect, any of the evidence, details of the crime or motives.

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Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission



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I would like, though, to recognize the officers from Danville and other agencies involved in this investigation. They understood the shock to the community this crime created and the urgency to solve it. Many of them worked 80 and 90 hours the first week to follow leads and interview witnesses.

Personnel from the Danville Police Department include investigators from both the Criminal and Special Investigations Units, officers from Patrol, Crime Scene, Street Crimes and SWAT, and our civilian Crime Analyst. They took the lead and set the pace for this intense effort. They worked closely with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office to coordinate strategy and effort.

Assistance was provided at the crime scene on June 1st and during the investigation by the FBI, Virginia State Police and the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office. The FBI Violent Gang Task Force provided invaluable technical assistance, the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office provided both technical assistance and a bloodhound, and the Virginia State Police provided troopers, Special Agents and tactical team personnel. Martinsville Police Department provided undercover officers during the search for the suspect on June 6th.

The success of this investigation by the various law enforcement agencies would have been more difficult without the cooperation of citizens in Danville who stepped up and made the correct decision to provide information to solve this crime. It is that kind of cooperation and assistance that is critical in making Danville a safe place to live. The entire community is responsible for its collective safety. It is not a responsibility that rests solely on law enforcement. I am proud to live in a community that recognizes that responsibility and steps forward to assist when required. Thank you.

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